

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-13, 18 and 21-32 are pending. The Examiner has required election among the following species:

**Species I:** ribonucleotides (of first and further portions) which do not contain 2'-fluoro, Formula I or Formula II substituents.

**Species II:** ribonucleotides (of first and further portions) which contain 2'-fluoro substituents.

**Species III:** ribonucleotides of further portion containing a 2' substituent having the formula I, as set forth in claim 4.

**Species IV:** ribonucleotides of further portion containing a 2' substituent having the formula II, as set forth in claim 4.

Applicants elect Species III. Applicants would also like to thank the Examiner for the telephonic interview regarding same. An early Office Action on the merits is earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions, the undersigned invites the Examiner to contact her at the number below.

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